Author of *Deep Denial*, David Billings, to Speak

In co-operation with Bradley University, the author of *Deep Denial*, David Billings, will speak at North Branch on Monday, January 22 at 11:00 a.m.

Mississippi native David Billings’ recent book, *Deep Denial: The Persistence of White Supremacy in United States History and Life*, has won the 2017 Next Generation Indie Book Award in the Current Events/Social Change category. Billings, an historian and organizer with The People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond, has worked for half a century in the struggle for racial justice. *Deep Denial* — part popular history, part personal memoir — documents the 400-year racialization of the U.S. and explains why “we remain a nation hard-wired by race.”

In a PBS Newshour interview in 2016, Billings said, “In this country people can just define racism anyway they want,” he says. “We say ‘no.’ You got to have a definition where it impacts where your organization is going. It has to include your race’s relationship to power in this country.”

Billings acknowledges that his own power stems from being a white man in a nation that he says was designed to benefit him above others. But as America becomes more diverse and the demand for equal opportunity grows, “some white people are feeling that we are not benefiting as much as we should,” he said. It’s a psychological dynamic he describes in his upcoming book, *Deep Denial*.

“Down deep in us, even for those of us who voted for President Obama or have colleagues that are part of our organization, there’s a degree to which we feel whites should be running things,” he says. “And when there isn’t, we get upset about it.”

Rev. Billings is an ordained United Methodist minister. He also is an historian with a special interest in the history of race and racism. Billings’ organizing work has been cited for many awards including the Westchester County chapter of the National Association of Social Workers “Public Citizen of the Year,” the New Orleans Pax Christi “Bread and Roses” award; the Loyola University of New Orleans “Homeless and Hunger Award”; the 2010 Martin Luther King Social Justice Award from the New Orleans Jazz Foundation; and the National Alliance against Racist Oppression’s Angela Davis Award for community service. He was the Whitney Young 2006 lecturer at the Westchester County NASW symposium.

“No one speaks to racism and its cure better than David Billings, a white Southerner who has seen it all. His is a voice that needs to be heard. It is a voice with perfect pitch.”
— Charlayne Hunter-Gault, Emmy and Peabody Award-winning journalist and civil rights pioneer.

Peoria Public Library Celebrates Illinois History Every Day

This year the state of Illinois celebrates 200 years of statehood, culminating in the actual anniversary of statehood on December 3. For 138 of those 200 years, Peoria Public Library has existed as a tax-supported city library, although subscription libraries began here thirty years before that.

Because of that long existence in the city, Peoria Public Library is a treasure trove of Illinois history with documents, images, newspapers, almanacs, city directories, maps and so much more going back to the beginnings of statehood and before. Everyone from family genealogists to documentary makers to news crews to museums from around the world contact Peoria Public Library to find the unique gems of history filed away in our Local History and Genealogy Department. Explore the history of Illinois at Peoria Public Library.
Bad Weather? Is the Library Open?
Winter can bring severe weather that can close schools and make travel hazardous. Before you venture out in the storm to visit the library, check to make sure we are open! Call (309) 497-2000 or check the website at www.peoriapubliclibrary.org. Emergency messages are posted near the top of the home page. You can also check the closings listed on local media and our social media.

Even when Peoria Public Library is open during bad weather, you may want to save yourself the trip and use online services. You can renew and reserve books online using the My Account button on the website. If for some reason you are unable to renew online, just call and get help over the phone from one of our staff.

Desperate for something new to read? You can download an e-book or audiobook from several different sources on our website with your library card and PIN. You can also stream music from Freegal or find books for bored kids with or without sound and some even have games! Put your time indoors to good use and do some genealogy research with Heritage Quest or start learning a new language with Mango.

While Peoria Public Library rarely closes, it is important to remember that books can be renewed and returned when the blizzard is over and there are plenty of library resources available to you on your computer or mobile device. Keep the number handy – (309) 497-2000 and bookmark the website www.peoriapubliclibrary.org.

Family Activity Nights Scheduled for 2018
Peoria Public Library North Branch will host a Family Activity Night once a month on the third Wednesday of each month beginning January 17. The programs begin at 6:30 p.m. and offer a wide variety of activities the entire family can enjoy together. Mark your calendar and bring your family and friends for these fun activities.

- January – Learn Morse Code and send secret messages
- February – Come play chess or checkers
- March – Build your own board game
- April – Play one of our card games, or make up a new one
- May – Learn a few yo-yo tricks
- June – Build and decorate a bird feeder
- July – Build the perfect paper airplane
- August – Play a giant game of Word Winder
- September – Decorate a box to turn into a family “time capsule”
- October – Carve a Jack O’ Lantern
- November – Write and illustrate a story together
- December – Decorate cookies

Can’t Find The Book You Want? Request It!
Did you know that Peoria Public Library will purchase the book you are looking for if we can’t find it in our collection or borrow it from somewhere else for you? Just speak to a staff member at any Information Desk. Recently some of our patrons have requested the following titles and they have been added to the Peoria Public Library collection.

- Pandora’s Lab: Seven Stories of Science Gone Wrong by Paul A. Offit
- The Grown-Up’s Guide to Teenage Humans: How to Decode Their Behavior, Develop Unshakeable Trust, and Raise a Respectable Adult by Josh Shipp
- Keto Comfort Foods: Family Favorite Recipes Made Low-Carb and Healthy by Maria Emmerich
- The Last Castle: the Epic Story of Love, Loss, and American Royalty in the Nation’s Largest Home by Denise Kiernan
- King of Spies: the Dark Reign of America’s Spymaster in Korea by Blaine Harden.
- Blessed in the Darkness: How All Things are Working for Your Good by Joel Osteen

Illinois Reads
Each year the state of Illinois runs a statewide project to promote reading for Illinois citizens by selecting six books in each of six different age categories ranging from read-to books for infants to adult readers. A variety of topics and themes are chosen for each age group, with an emphasis on selections written by authors with ties to Illinois.

In 2017, Peoria Public Library offered readers a chance to win a prize for participating in Illinois Reads and there was a great turnout. Congratulations to our winners from 2017: Adult: Julie Bowman; Grades 9-12: Allyson Parks; Grades 6-8: Laylah Cameron; Grades 3-5: Augie Crank; Grades K-2: Shamiah McClain; Birth-4yrs: Vince Bauml.

The 2018 contest starts this March and runs through Family Reading Night on November 16. All that you do is read four of the titles from your age/grade group.

Pick up a contest book log at any Information Desk this March and keep track of the titles you read. Turn it in by Family Reading Night, November 16, to be entered to our drawing for a $20 Barnes & Noble gift card. Drawing will be held on November 17. One winner per age/grade. If you want to start reading now, the full list of books can be found at http://illinoisreads.org/booksselectedfor2017/2017allbooks.html. Remember, books read over the summer also count for Summer Reading!
January
ALL LOCATIONS
Winter Reading Treasures
Unearth hidden gems this winter as you complete these winter reading challenges! Complete the number of challenges required for your age group and return your reading log to any branch to choose your prize from the box of treasures. You’ll also be entered to win a $10 gift card (one winner from each branch) and the library-wide grand prize: a Kindle Fire tablet.

January
ALL LOCATIONS
1,000 Books Before Kindergarten
Read any 1,000 books to your child before they enter kindergarten and earn prizes for every 100 books they read. Sign up at any location. Details are given at the time of signup. Once your child reads 1,000 books, they will be invited to a graduation party in May.

January
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Around the Library Reading Challenge
Pick up a challenge sheet at the Information Desk and read your way through the non-fiction side of the library! Read a book from each part of the Dewey Decimal System and be entered to win a $10 gift card to Barnes and Noble! One winner from three different age ranges. Open to readers of all ages!

January
NORTH BRANCH
Trivia Master Challenge
Life is full of mysteries, and the library has the answers! Each week, there’s a new question and a new chance to win. Find the answer to a riddle in a library book, enter to win a prize, and become a Trivia Master! Children of all ages.

January
MAIN LIBRARY
Crafts-to-Go – 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Kids ages 5 through 12 can pick up a craft packet at the 1st Floor Information Desk any time we’re open.

January
MCCLURE BRANCH
National Soup Month Recipe Exchange & Drawing
Celebrate National Soup Month by submitting your favorite soup recipe to the McClure branch staff. All submitted recipes will be kept in a binder for neighborhood residents to peruse (and make copies from), and one lucky participant’s name will be drawn for a $10 gift card to the grocery store of their choice for soup ingredients.

January 2-5
MCCLURE BRANCH
Winter Break Movies – 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Are you looking for something to do with the last week of Winter Break? Enjoy these winter-themed movies! We’ll provide the hot chocolate. Outside snacks are welcome, as long as they stay in the McClure Room.
January 2: Snow Day
January 3: Happy Feet 1
January 4: Happy Feet 2
January 5: Frozen

Tuesday, January 2
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Drop In: Sensory Art – 6:15-7:30 p.m.
This non-structured art session allows you to choose the materials to create your own unique masterpiece. Lights will be dimmed, and ear muffs and fidgets are available. Designed for our patrons with Autism Spectrum Disorder, but inclusive to everyone.

Tuesday, January 2, 9, 23 & 30
LINCOLN BRANCH
Terrific Tattletale Storytime – 10:00-10:30 a.m.
Ages 3 to 6.

Tuesday, January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Book’in It Walking Club – 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Need help starting a consistent fitness routine? Join the Book’in It Walking Club and get a little support! The club will meet each Tuesday for a 30 minute (or longer if you’re up for it!) walk at Lakeview Branch. We will walk inside on bad days and outside in the nice weather. We will keep track of goals and milestones. Members who complete 24 weeks will be entered into a drawing for a prize! All ages welcome.

Tuesday, January 2, 9, 23 & 30
LINCOLN BRANCH
Terrific Tattletale Storytime – 10:00-10:30 a.m.
Ages 3 to 6.

Wednesday, January 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31
LAKEVIEW BRANCH – 10:15-11:15 a.m.
Monday, January 8, 22 & 29
NORTH BRANCH – 10:30-11:00 a.m.
Tiny Tots Storytime
Ages 2 to 36 months.

Tuesday, January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Book’in It Walking Club – 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Need help starting a consistent fitness routine? Join the Book’in It Walking Club and get a little support! The club will meet each Tuesday for a 30 minute (or longer if you’re up for it!) walk at Lakeview Branch. We will walk inside on bad days and outside in the nice weather. We will keep track of goals and milestones. Members who complete 24 weeks will be entered into a drawing for a prize! All ages welcome.
**January Calendar**

**Wednesday, January 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31**

**NORTH BRANCH**

*Brainy Baby Storytime – 1:30–2:00 p.m.*
Develop your baby’s pre-literacy skills with this lapsit program, designed to introduce children and their caregivers to books, songs, and rhymes to help them understand new concepts and enhance their love of learning. Caregivers will be encouraged to engage their child through one-on-one interactions, making reading time fun. Age 0 to 23 months.

**Thursday, January 4, 11, 18 & 25**

**MCCLURE BRANCH**

*Fun Time Storytime – 10:00–10:30 a.m.*
Ages 3 to 6.

**Thursday, January 4, 11, 18 & 25**

**NORTH BRANCH**

*A–Z Storytime – 10:30–11:00 a.m.*
Join us for letter-themed stories, songs, and crafts as we focus on learning the shapes of letters and the sounds they make! Ages 2 to 3.

**Friday, January 5**

**MCCLURE BRANCH**

**Friday, January 12**

**LAKEVIEW BRANCH**

*Baby Playground – 10:15–11:15 a.m.*
Calling all babies! Join us for a special playgroup designed to help you explore your world through creative play. Ages 9 months to 24 months.

**Friday, January 5, 12, 19 & 26**

**NORTH BRANCH**

*Busy Bees Storytime – 10:30–11:00 a.m.*
Children of all ages.

**Friday, January 5**

**LAKEVIEW BRANCH**

*Drop In: LEGO Builders Club – 3:00–5:00 p.m.*
Drop in any time to play. Parental supervision is required.

**Friday, January 5, 12, 19 & 26**

**MCCLURE BRANCH**

*Friday Game Night – 4:00–5:00 p.m.*
Come to the library to play video, board, tabletop or card games, and more! Snacks and drinks provided.

**Saturday, January 6, 13, 20 & 27**

**NORTH BRANCH**

*Busier Bees Storytime – 10:30–11:00 a.m.*
Children of all ages.

**Saturday, January 6**

**LINCOLN BRANCH**

*Drop In: Crafts-to-Go – 12:00–5:00 p.m.*
Come make a cool Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. paper crown.

**Saturday, January 6**

**NORTH BRANCH**

*Happy Birthday, Mr. Holmes – 3:00–5:00 p.m.*
Join us for a celebration of Sherlock Holmes’ 164th Birthday (January 6, 1854)! Local Sherlockian expert Brad Keefauver, who blogs under the heading of “Sherlock Peoria,” will deliver a presentation and answer questions. Show off your Sherlockian expertise in the science of deduction and join us in a Sherlock Holmes Trivia match. Don’t forget to check out our display and enjoy a piece of celebratory cake.

**Monday, January 8**

**LAKEVIEW BRANCH**

*Data Points – 3:30–4:30 p.m.*
Join us for a celebration of Sherlock Holmes’ 164th Birthday (January 6, 1854)! Local Sherlockian expert Brad Keefauver, who blogs under the heading of “Sherlock Peoria,” will deliver a presentation and answer questions. Show off your Sherlockian expertise in the science of deduction and join us in a Sherlock Holmes Trivia match. Don’t forget to check out our display and enjoy a piece of celebratory cake.

**Monday, January 8**

**LAKEVIEW BRANCH**

*Brainy Baby Storytime – 10:00–10:45 a.m.*
This Spanish/English storytime features books, games, and songs to help build vocabulary in both languages. Children of all ages.

**Monday, January 8**

**NORTH BRANCH**

*Happy Birthday, Mr. Holmes – 3:00–5:00 p.m.*
Join us for a celebration of Sherlock Holmes’ 164th Birthday (January 6, 1854)! Local Sherlockian expert Brad Keefauver, who blogs under the heading of “Sherlock Peoria,” will deliver a presentation and answer questions. Show off your Sherlockian expertise in the science of deduction and join us in a Sherlock Holmes Trivia match. Don’t forget to check out our display and enjoy a piece of celebratory cake.

**Monday, January 8**

**LAKEVIEW BRANCH**

*Bilingual Storytime – 10:15–10:45 a.m.*
This Spanish/English storytime features books, games, and songs to help build vocabulary in both languages. Children of all ages.

**Monday, January 8**

**LINCOLN BRANCH**

*STEAM Adventures – 4:30–5:30 p.m.*
If you enjoy Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics, this is your chance to dig a little deeper! This month we will be investigating DNA. Ages 9 to 12.

**Thursday, January 11**

**LINCOLN BRANCH**

*Puppet Show – 10:00–10:30 a.m.*

**Sunday, January 14**

**LAKEVIEW BRANCH**

*Sci Fi & Fantasy Book Club – 6:30–7:30 p.m.*
This month: Artemis by Andy Weir

**Tuesday, January 9**

**LAKEVIEW BRANCH**

*Bullet Journals for Beginners – 6:00–7:00 p.m.*
Do you wish you were more organized but haven’t found a system that works for you? Is your calendar app helpful, but you wish it could do more? Start the New Year off right with a Bullet Journal. Join us in a tutorial to help you get started on your new Bullet Journal. We will have supplies to get you started but feel free to bring a journal and favorite pen. Adults only.

**Wednesday, January 10**

**NORTH BRANCH**

*STEAM Adventures – 4:30–5:30 p.m.*
If you enjoy Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics, this is your chance to dig a little deeper! This month we will be investigating DNA. Ages 9 to 12.

**Thursday, January 11**

**LINCOLN BRANCH**

*Puppet Show – 10:00–10:30 a.m.*

**Sunday, January 14**

**LAKEVIEW BRANCH**

*Sensory Friendly Family Film – 2:00–4:00 p.m.*
Join us for this sensory friendly showing of Happy Feet. The room will be lighter, the volume will be lower, and audience members will be welcome to move around, talk, and sing. The intended audience is children with special needs accompanied by siblings and caregivers, although everyone is welcome to attend. Noise canceling ear muffs and fidgets will be supplied. Rated PG.

**Sunday, January 14**

**NORTH BRANCH**

*Biography & Non-fiction Book Club – 3:00–4:30 p.m.*
This month: Kosovo: What Everyone Needs to Know by Tim Judah.
Tuesday, January 16
LINCOLN BRANCH
Front & Center: Bookshelf Scavenger Hunt 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 16
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
YA for Adults Book Club – 6:30-7:30 p.m.
In your 20s or 30s and enjoy reading Young Adult books? Join us to discuss the best in YA literature. As a bonus, there are always snacks! This month: The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas

Wednesday, January 17
NORTH BRANCH
Family Activity Night – 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Get some quality family bonding time. Every month, the library will host a different activity to engage parents and children of all ages to play a game or make a project. Children and adults of all ages. This month: Learn Morse Code and send secret messages.

Thursday, January 18
NORTH BRANCH
Third Thursday Film Fest: Books into Movies – 2:00-4:30 p.m.
Join us for movies based on books! Which was better – the movie or the book? It’s your decision to make! Bring a snack and enjoy a movie on the big screen. Free and open to all ages. This month: The Maltese Falcon (1941)

Thursday, January 18
NORTH BRANCH
Teen Craft: Sculpting – 4:00-4:45 p.m.
Get inspired by Sculpture Walk Peoria 2017! After a virtual tour of the pieces on display in the Warehouse District, we’ll sculpt our own masterpieces—on a much smaller scale. Ages 11 to 18.

Friday, January 19
MCCLURE BRANCH
Friday, January 26
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Toddler Play Zone – 10:15-11:15 a.m.
Join us for a special playgroup for toddlers to interact with other kids, play with educational toys, and read books with their parents. Ages 2 to 4.

Saturday, January 20
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Autism Resource Group 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Are you a parent with a tween or teen with Autism Spectrum Disorder? Join us at the Lakeview Branch for resource sharing and support. We will show a movie each month for children whose parents are attending the meeting.

Saturday, January 20
NORTH BRANCH
Baby, It’s Cold Outside Beach Party 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Join us for crafts, games, and recipes from beaches everywhere while we watch Lilo & Stitch. The Hula Hoop contest starts at 4:00, and the Limbo contest will begin at 4:30! Ages 6 to 10.

Sunday, January 21
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Book ‘Em Mystery Book Club–2:00-3:30pm This month: The Sentry by Robert Crais

Sunday, January 21
NORTH BRANCH
Music in the McKenzie Presents: Sally Barris – 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Sally Barris is an A-list Nashville songwriter who has had songs covered by top-level artists as Kathy Mattea, Martina McBride, and Lee Ann Womack. While her writing credits impress, fans and peers are most captivated by her bright spirit and expressive mountain soprano. A portion of CD sales support The Friends of Peoria Public Library.

Monday, January 22
MCCLURE BRANCH
Monday Morning Movie 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Enjoy a classic movie with popcorn! Let’s return to yesteryear! We’ve found some timeless treasures that are at least fifty years old. This month: Road to Utopia with Bob Hope (1945)

Monday, January 22
NORTH BRANCH
David Billings’ Deep Denial 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Join us for this interesting author talk. Mississippi native David Billings’ recent book, Deep Denial: The Persistence of White Supremacy in United States History and Life, has won the 2017 Next Generation Indie Book Award in the Current Events/Social Change category. Billings, an historian and organizer with The People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond, has worked for half a century in the struggle for racial justice. Deep Denial—part popular history, part personal memoir—documents the 400-year racialization of the U.S. and explains why “we remain a nation hard-wired by race.”

Monday, January 22 & 29
NORTH BRANCH
Winter Olympic Movie Series 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Monday, January 22
LINCOLN BRANCH
Front & Center: Altered Book Project 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Turn an old book into a piece of art with glitter, sequins, jewels, stickers and more. Ages 5 to 10.
**JANUARY CALENDAR**

**Tuesday, January 23**  
LINCOLN BRANCH  
*Read On Book Club* – 5:30-7:00 p.m.  
This month: *We’re Going to Need More Wine* by Gabrielle Union

**Thursday, January 25**  
NORTH BRANCH  
*Sherlock Holmes Story Society*  
6:30-7:30 p.m.  
Whether you’ve read the classic Sherlock Holmes stories a million times or none at all, all are welcome to experience The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes in this discussion group. Each month, we’ll tackle another short story. Like our hero bid his loyal companion over one hundred years ago, we invite you to “Come at once if convenient – if inconvenient come all the same”! This month: “Silver Blaze”

**Saturday, January 27**  
LAKEVIEW BRANCH  
*Sensory Storytime* – 10:15-11:00 a.m.  
Sensory Storytime features books, activities, and music designed to engage the senses, with part of each session reserved for sensory play and socialization for children with autism or other special needs. Geared for younger children, but children of all abilities, families, and siblings are encouraged to attend. Fidgets and ear muffs are available.

**Monday, January 29**  
LINCOLN BRANCH  
*Front & Center: LEGO Storybook Challenge* 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
Unlock your imagination. Take a scene or character from your favorite book and recreate it using Legos. Ages 5-10.

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**Support the Library!**  
Shop Friendly Finds Used Bookstore  
Peoria Public Library  
Main Library LL2  
107 NE Monroe  
Monday-Wednesday & Saturday  
12:00 - 4:00 p.m.
The Biography and Non-Fiction Book Club will meet on Sunday, February 11 at 3:00 p.m. at North Branch to discuss *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann. From New Yorker staff writer David Grann, a twisting, haunting true-life murder mystery about one of the most monstrous crimes in American history. In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Indian nation in Oklahoma. After oil was discovered beneath their land, they rode in chauffeured automobiles, built mansions, and sent their children to study in Europe. Then, one by one, the Osage began to be killed off. The family of an Osage woman, Mollie Burkhart, became a prime target. Her relatives were shot and poisoned. And it was just the beginning, as more and more members of the tribe began to die under mysterious circumstances. In this last remnant of the Wild West—where oilmen like J. P. Getty made their fortunes and where desperadoes like Al Spencer, the "Phantom Terror," roamed—many of those who dared to investigate the killings were themselves murdered. As the death toll climbed to more than twenty-four, the FBI took up the case. It was one of the organization's first major homicide investigations and the bureau badly bungled the case. In desperation, the young director, J. Edgar Hoover, turned to a former Texas Ranger named Tom White to unravel the mystery. White put together an undercover team, including one of the only American Indian agents in the bureau. The agents infiltrated the region, struggling to adopt the latest techniques of detection. Together with the Osage they began to expose one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history.

The Read on Book Club will meet at Lincoln Branch on Tuesday, February 27 to discuss *The Devil You Know* by Mary Monroe. For best friends Lola Poole and Joan Proctor-Riley, there's never too much when it comes to online-dating rich, no-commitments lovers. It's a fantasy come true that makes their unhappy lives bearable. But there's no escape when Lola's vicious relatives cheat her out of everything that's hers, and Joan's husband pulls a devastating betrayal. With nothing to lose, the two will do everything and anything to lock down Mr. Right and lifetime satisfaction. With his scorching sexual healing and compassionate nature, handsome trucker Calvin Ramsey keeps coming out on top with Lola. And she's this close to winning his love and finally getting the loving family of her dreams. But she doesn't suspect that Calvin's idea of making a woman his own is a fatal affair. Now, his gentle reassurances and sensual promises are spinning a web where Lola and Joan's deepest longings could be the deadliest trap of all. For more information please call (309) 497-2601.

The Sherlock Holmes Story Society will meet at North Branch on Thursday, February 22 at North Branch to discuss "The Adventure of the Cardboard Box." Miss Susan Cushing of Croydon receives a parcel in the post that contains two severed human ears packed in coarse salt. The address on the package, roughly written and with a spelling correction, suggests to Holmes that the sender lacks education and is unfamiliar with Croydon. The knot in the string suggests to Holmes that they are looking for someone with sailing experience. Holmes considers the solution so simple that he asks Lestrade not to mention his name in connection with it. A few simple questions to Miss Cushing, a few observations, a cable to Liverpool, and a visit to Miss Cushing's sister Sarah convince Holmes that he has found the answers.

The Book 'Em Mystery Book Club will meet on Sunday, February 18 at 2:00 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss *Deep Dark* by Laura Griffin. The moment detective Reed Novak steps onto the crime scene, he knows the case is going to rock his world. A beautiful young woman murdered at home. No sign of forced entry. No motive. She's obviously not the killer's first victim, and Reed's instincts tell him she won't be his last. Reed's first clue comes via a mysterious text that links to a dating profile, but even more intriguing than the clue is the person who sent it. As a white-hat hacker in the Delphi Center's cyber investigation unit, Laney Knox sneaks into some of the deepest, darkest corners of the Internet looking for predators. Laney would prefer to stay away from Austin PD's most recent murder case, but she can't ignore the chilling similarities between that crime and her own brutal attack years ago. Laney offers to help the sexy lead detective, but he wants more from her than just a promising tip—Reed wants her trust. Laney resists, but as their relationship deepens she's tempted to reveal the closely guarded secrets that could make her a key witness... or the killer's next victim.

The Sci-Fi Fantasy Book Club will meet on Monday, February 12 at Lakeview Branch at 6:30 p.m. to discuss *Red Sister* by Mark Lawrence. The international bestselling author of the Broken Empire and the Red Queen's War trilogies begins a stunning epic fantasy series about a secretive order of holy warriors. At the Convent of Sweet Mercy, young girls are raised to be killers. In some few children the old bloods show, gifting rare talents that can be honed to deadly or mystic effect. But even the mistresses of sword and shadow don't truly understand what they have purchased when Nona Grey is brought to their halls. A blood-stained child of nine falsely accused of murder, guilty of worse, Nona is stolen from the shadow of the noose. It takes ten years to educate a Red Sister in the
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**BOOK CLUBS**

ways of blade and fist, but under Ab-

bess Glass’s care there is much more to

learn than the arts of death. Among her

class Nona finds a new family—and new

enemies. Despite the security and iso-

lation of the convent, Nona’s secret and

violent past finds her out, drawing with

it the tangled politics of a crumbling

empire. Her arrival sparks old feuds to

life, igniting vicious struggles within

the church and even drawing the eye of

the emperor himself. Beneath a dying

sun, Nona Grey must master her inner
demons, then loose them on those who

stand in her way.

Friends of Clonmel Intercontinental

Readers will meet at 1:00 p.m. on

March 6 at Main Library on LL1 to hold

a Skype discussion with the group in

Clonmel, Ireland about Ordinary Grace

by William Kent Krueger. Ordinary

Grace is a brilliantly moving account of

a boy standing at the door of his young

manhood, trying to understand a world

that seems to be falling apart around

him. It is an unforgettable novel about
discovering the terrible price of wisdom

and the enduring grace of God.

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**Starting Over With Your Genealogy** by AMBER LOWERY

Have you ever been ready to just take all of your genealogy research and toss it out? Just stuff it all in the garbage and walk away from it? Wipe your hands clean of the binders, folders, and piles of dusty old books?

I was in that state last year, until I read a great blog that came out last year called Genealogy Do-Over. The blog, written by the incredible Thomas MacEntee, suggested doing just that. With winter setting in, this is the perfect time to start on this project and plan for a less overwhelming, more organized approach to genealogy research in 2018.

The first thing MacEntee proposed is we take all of our previous research and set it to the side. Then we prepare to research like it is our first time, but keeping the skills and knowledge that we have accumulated over the years. As we get deeper into genealogy, our research methods are honed and sharpened. We learn to look for the details buried in obituaries, family histories, news clippings, and vital records.

For example, did you know that Peoria had a number of different newspapers, but they did not necessarily report all the same information? Perhaps you have an obituary for Great-Grandfather Edwin from the Peoria Journal, but did you check the Peoria Evening Star to see if perhaps that copy mentioned his mother’s maiden name? No? Well, then, off you go to Peoria Public Library Main Library to look at the microfilm and see if any new information is waiting to be discovered.

Maybe you have a bit of genealogical information on an ancestor in an old photocopy but you cannot remember where you got it from. Bring it with you on one of your planned research days and ask one of the staff in the Local History department if they recognize the source.

Rediscover your passion for the hobby by going back to the beginning with fresh eyes. Perhaps the breadcrumb you seek is already among your research, waiting to be found. If it is not, make a trip to the Peoria Public Library to explore our resources and talk to staff about avenues you may be missing in your research.